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The Daily Gamecock, TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2011

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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\$2.5 million plan to link classroom, extracurriculars

USC Connect aims to increase student engagement on, off campus

Ryan Quinn
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USC plans to spend around \$2.5 million over the next five years on a program meant to increase student participation in extracurricular experiences, including guest lectures, community service opportunities, international experiences and internships.

As part of the university's once-in-a-decade reaccreditation process by the Southern Association of Colleges and

Schools, USC must submit something called a Quality Enhancement Plan. The university has dubbed its plan "USC Connect" and says it will link students to opportunities that align with their interests.

USC Vice Provost Helen Doeringhaus said SACS requires a "sizable investment" over five years, which she estimated at \$500,000.

USC officials chose to invest about \$2.5 million — or approximately five times that amount.

The program will establish a new Quality Enhancement Plan office, a full-time director, a half-time assessment position and an administrative assistant.

Doeringhaus said SACS requires USC sustain the program for five years, after which the university will chose whether to continue it.

"If we see our students are learning more, getting better jobs and having a more beneficial experience at Carolina then we would continue it, of course," Doeringhaus said. Students will have the opportunity to select experiences that will build on what they're learning or what they're interested in learning, Doeringhaus said.

"That could be something that has to do with their major," Doeringhaus said. "It could be a variety of things. Students

will be able to look at opportunities available on campus and in the community and select what fits them."

According to Irma Van Scoy, associate dean for Academic and Student Affairs, the online aspect of USC Connect may contain a variety of features including a "gaming" system where avatars of students would open doors to new opportunities. Van Scoy, who chairs the QEP Proposal Committee, said she hopes for an intelligent suggestion system and an overhaul of USC's much-bemoaned calendar.

"We don't have anything like that right now," Van Scoy said. "We have a

USC CONNECT • 2

'What could we do with our lives?'

MTV's 'The Buried Life' comes to Koger Center

Natalie Newman & Sydney Patterson
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"What do you want to do before you die?"

It's the question the cast of "The Buried Life," a popular MTV television show, posed to a packed auditorium during last night's appearance in the Koger Center.

The four stars and creators of the show — brothers Duncan and Jonnie Penn, Ben Nemtin and Dave Lingwood — devised a list of 100 things they want to do before they die, including escaping from a deserted island, delivering a baby and capturing a fugitive, all of which they've completed during the reality documentary series's past two seasons.

"We were all going through a similar feeling of not having anything to put our energy into. We started talking about life and how we were kind of discontent ... and we came up with the idea of going after a list

of 100 things to do before we die. That's kind of where the concept came from, just trying to figure out what we could do with our lives," Lingwood said.

No. 53 on the list was making their own TV show, which MTV gave them the chance to do. They said they turned down other production companies that wanted to take the idea and exploit it, but they made the deal with MTV, agreeing that would be executive producers of show and control the whole process. Along the way, they've helped many others cross things off their own bucket lists, such as finding long-lost relatives and realizing their lifelong dreams.

The idea for the show came from a Skype conversation five years ago, when the four friends agreed they all needed something to do with their lives.

Though the show revolves around the group's hilarious shenanigans, like a quest to steal a lock of Robert Pattinson's hair and streak across a soccer field (which ended in a naked arrest and a night spent in jail), the show touches on some emotional subject matter as well.

BURIED LIFE • 4



Courtney Price / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Will students show up to support Darla Moore?

Details remain uncertain for Wednesday afternoon event

Josh Dawsey
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Thousands of people have asked for Darla Moore's reinstatement as a USC trustee through social media.

More than 400 say they're attending Wednesday's 12:15 p.m. Statehouse rally. But how many will actually show at the rally? It's anyone's guess.

About 300 USC students said they were attending a rally for higher education funding last month. Fewer than 50 attended.

"I think there's apathy all over

campus," said Taylor Cain, former student body vice president. "But I think everyone on campus saw this issue upset far more people than the fact [that] we've [had] millions of dollars [in budget cuts] over the past few years, so we don't really know."

Details of the rally were hazy Monday. According to a post on the

rally's Facebook account, Tyler Ryan, a local radio show host and "the famed leprechaun from St. Pat's in Columbia" will be the emcee.

No other details were immediately clear. Organizers promised more answers Tuesday and urged supporters to bring signs and posters in Facebook

PROTEST • 2

Student Pulse

Will you be attending the Darla Moore student protest? What do you think about it?



Billy Judge
Third-year life sciences student



Courtney Diles
Second-year English student



Jordan Cooper
Third-year history student



Kathy Conroy
First-year biology student



Katie Carpenter
First-year print journalism student

"I am not going basically because I'm not really into politics. I also don't have time to go, but I do think what [Gov. Nikki] Haley did is totally ridiculous. Will it make a difference? Probably not."

"The protest will probably make a difference. I'll have to do some more research on it because it sounds like a big deal, but I don't plan on going."

"I think it's a good idea, but I don't think it will make a difference. Sometimes they say parents don't understand, but sometimes students just don't understand. I don't think it's going to change anything."

"It's kind of ridiculous what Haley did and Darla was removed by some guy who just paid Haley. I think the protest will make a difference. It's our university, and we should have a say as to who goes on the board of trustees."

"My friends have talked about it, and my grandma called me about it, so I know the circumstances of it. I'll probably go if my friends are there."

— Compiled by Taylor Cheney

WEATHER

Tuesday

86° 58°

Wednesday

85° 58°

MIX



Prince electrifies

The pop icon performed at the Colonial Life Arena Monday as a part of his "Welcome 2 America" tour. **See page 6**

SPORTS



Baker bounces back

Gamecock running back Eric Baker is returning this season after two separate injuries. **See page 9**

NEW

dailygamecock.com
CHECK CHECK CHECK IT OUT

All new website

The Daily Gamecock recently launched a sleek new, interactive Website. Check it out.

Online @ dailygamecock.com

Speed bumps put in Bull Street Garage



Brian Almond / THE DAILY GAMECOCK
Due to complaints, speed bumps were installed on the fifth floor ramp of Bull Street Garage.

Safety measures installed in response to complaints

Cassie Stanton
GSTANTON@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Speed bumps were installed inside Bull Street Garage over spring break to make the garage safer for students. The speed bumps are intended to slow vehicles and prevent accidents, said Bill Baker, USC’s Parking Services director, in an email response. Bull Street was the only garage that underwent changes, and Baker said installation of the speed bumps was cheap and took about 90 minutes. Labor was approximately \$30, Baker said, and the university already owned the bumps. The speed bumps were installed in response to complaints that Parking Services received about vehicles traveling too fast. “It creates a dangerous situation when cars are backing out of parking spaces,” Baker said. Nelson Weston, a third-year political science student, has a parking spot this semester at Bull Street Garage. Weston said he has seen cars traveling up to 25 or 30 miles per hour in the garage and that it’s difficult to see these speeding

cars when they are turning corners. Weston said that the speed bumps have made him feel more secure and safer while driving. “For the most part, everybody slows down,” Weston said. “That’s the most important factor.” In addition to causing drivers to reduce speed, the speed bumps also help with visibility. Weston said that cars’ headlights now reflect off the speed bumps and that the reflection helps other drivers see these cars turning corners. “I think just for safety measures they should be put in all garages,” Weston said. While the speed bumps are intended to slow people down, Jonathan Berry, a third-year chemical engineering student, said they can also cause physical damage to drivers’ cars. He said that because the Bull Street Garage speed bumps aren’t long enough, they can harm vehicles. “I get their purpose to make people slow down, but they’re kind of annoying because they only hit one of the tires on your car,” Berry said. “It’s at the cost of messing up your alignment.”

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USC CONNECT • Continued from 1

bunch of different offices that each have their own website, and unless you search the Web a lot, you don’t even know what is out there.” Doerpinghaus said faculty, staff and students have been involved in the development of USC Connect over the past two years. Students will be introduced to the program during orientation, the First-Year Reading Experience and University 101. “Capstone and the Honors College require beyond-the-classroom experiences, [and] Greek organizations do as well,” Doerpinghaus said. “We think a lot of this is already going on; it’s just a way for students to enjoy it more and record it so that when they get ready for their next steps after college, they can show what they’ve done.” Some students, however, say that with beyond-the-classroom experiences already available, there is no need for USC Connect. “I think, personally, if they want to do something they’re going to do it,” said Tierelle Nesbit, a first-year psychology student. “The thing about college is you go in to find new experiences, so basing it off of interests you have coming in doesn’t give you the opportunity to spread out because you’re matched up with things you already like. Plus, it sounds like a lot of money.” But other students said they supported the program. “I definitely think that would be really helpful because a lot of cool things I just find out by posters all around,” Tyler Hutchinson, a first-year experimental psychology student. “But if there were something that told us where to go and what

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Student television station launches new website

Online venue to broadcast SGTV’s variety of shows, including ‘Topsy Trivia’

Ryan Quinn
RQUINN@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

In celebration of the launch of its new website Monday, Student Gamecock Television has dubbed this week SGTV Week. Members of the Student Media organization will be on Greene Street and the first floor of the Russell House Wednesday to promote the website with prizes, giveaways and contests. “We had a website before, and it wasn’t all that great, and this website will give us a lot more opportunities to show off all our work,” said Jenni Knight, the assistant station manager and a second-year broadcast journalism student. “We put in on channel 4 on campus, but that’s really limited because only campus people can watch it.” SGTV, which launched in 1995, is the newest of the four Student Media organizations. Knight said it began with one person with one camera and has expanded since. Knight is the co-producer of “Talk of the Town,” a biweekly entertainment news show that features segments on movies, local bands, cooking, celebrity visitors, gossip, fashion and more. The station also features “Capital City



Sydney Medlin / THE DAILY GAMECOCK
SGTV, formed in 1995, is the newest of the four student media organizations.

Sports,” the program upon which the station was originally founded. “We cover most of the major sports. If it’s a slow week we’ll get out to what we can,” said Paul Critzman III, a “Capital City Sports” staff member and first-year broadcast journalism student. “We have a boardroom segment that deals with the big topic of the week; it kind of has the analytical part, not just your scores.” The station also features “SGTV News 4,” a developing hard news show, and the infamous “Topsy Trivia,”

on which SGTV members pose questions to highly intoxicated Five Points patrons. A new sitcom called “The Joe Show” is in development. “Skizizophrenia,” the station’s award-winning and “Tosh.0”-featured entertainment show, is ending this year upon the graduation of creators Joey Thompson, a fourth-year media arts student, and Fabio Frey, a fourth-year management student.

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Courtesy of USC Media Relations
Daria Moore, who has donated over \$70 million to USC, stands here with USC vice president Michelle Dodenhoff.

PROTEST • 2

posts. And will the rally actually change the governor’s mind? It seems highly unlikely. A three-day barrage of criticism last week left her unmoved, and Haley spokesman Rob Godfrey told The Daily Gamecock last week she had no intentions of reversing her decision. Unless the governor changes her mind, the state legislature would have to create another spot on the board and elect Moore to it. Other trustees are elected by the legislature, and none are currently up for reelection. But Martha Morris, one of the movement’s chief organizers, said she still wants students to have their voices heard. Morris expects hundreds at the rally. Her goal: 300 to 500 students. “If we get the student base motivated enough and a message to all the members via Facebook, we can get people out there,” Morris said. “It’s right there at the Statehouse. It’s relatively feasible. It’s during lunchtime.” Lisa Miller, Moore’s secretary, didn’t return a phone call for comment late Monday.

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USC Extended Orientation Mentors Application Deadline Extended

Interested in gaining valuable leadership experience and sharing your Gamecock pride? Pillars for Carolina is seeking peer leaders for extended orientation June 21-25. Apply by 4PM on March 18th! For more information, visit www.sa.sc.edu/OFFsg/pillars, www.facebook.com/pillarsforcarolina, or email sapillars@mailbox.sc.edu

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Stay informed by following us on Twitter (USCStudentGovt) and Facebook!

Creed Week includes variety of events

Drag show, World Night among series of events sponsored by Carolina Judicial Council to boost pride

Kiante Chapman
NEWS@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

To boost campus pride and heighten students' awareness of the Carolinian Creed, the Carolina Judicial Council is sponsoring Carolinian Creed Week. The week's events include Tuesday night's production of "The Birdcage," the annual drag show hosted by BGLSA and Carolina Productions, and Friday's World Night, sponsored by the International Student Association.

The Carolinian Creed, a value statement that all those invested in the university pledge to follow, was written in the late 1980s following a string of violent on-campus incidents. Ever since, the Creed has been incorporated into campus

culture in many ways, as a signed statement during enrollment and in University 101 classes. "My U101 professor explained the Carolinian Creed to us," said Mazie Jasper, a first-year business student. "I had never really heard or thought about it until then."

Carolinian Creed Week brings together students, staff and faculty to participate in programs that exhibit the values apparent in the Creed. Each activity is designed to increase campus unity and to promote academic and personal integrity. Creed Week, which takes place in the spring semester (Carolinian Creed Day is in the fall semester) features speakers and student-sponsored events.

Carolinian Creed Week began with each academic department organizing specific events, but in 1997 the Office of Student Judicial Programs took over the project with the help of the Carolina Judicial Council. CJC's job is to ensure all students have the opportunity to become fully engaged in activities that will allow them to become more knowledgeable of the

Carolinian Creed.

Endra Curry, a third-year international studies, economics and sport and entertainment management student, serves as the vice president of Creed Programming. She plans and develops presentations and ceremonies to promote and reinforce the Carolina Creed on campus and also collaborates with other campus organizations to coordinate events to increase awareness within the Carolina community.

"I really want to make it more relevant to the new generation," Curry said. "It's difficult to hold someone's interest about something that is not presented to them in a way that they are comfortable with."

Creed Week opened with a kickoff on Greene Street at 11 a.m. on Monday.

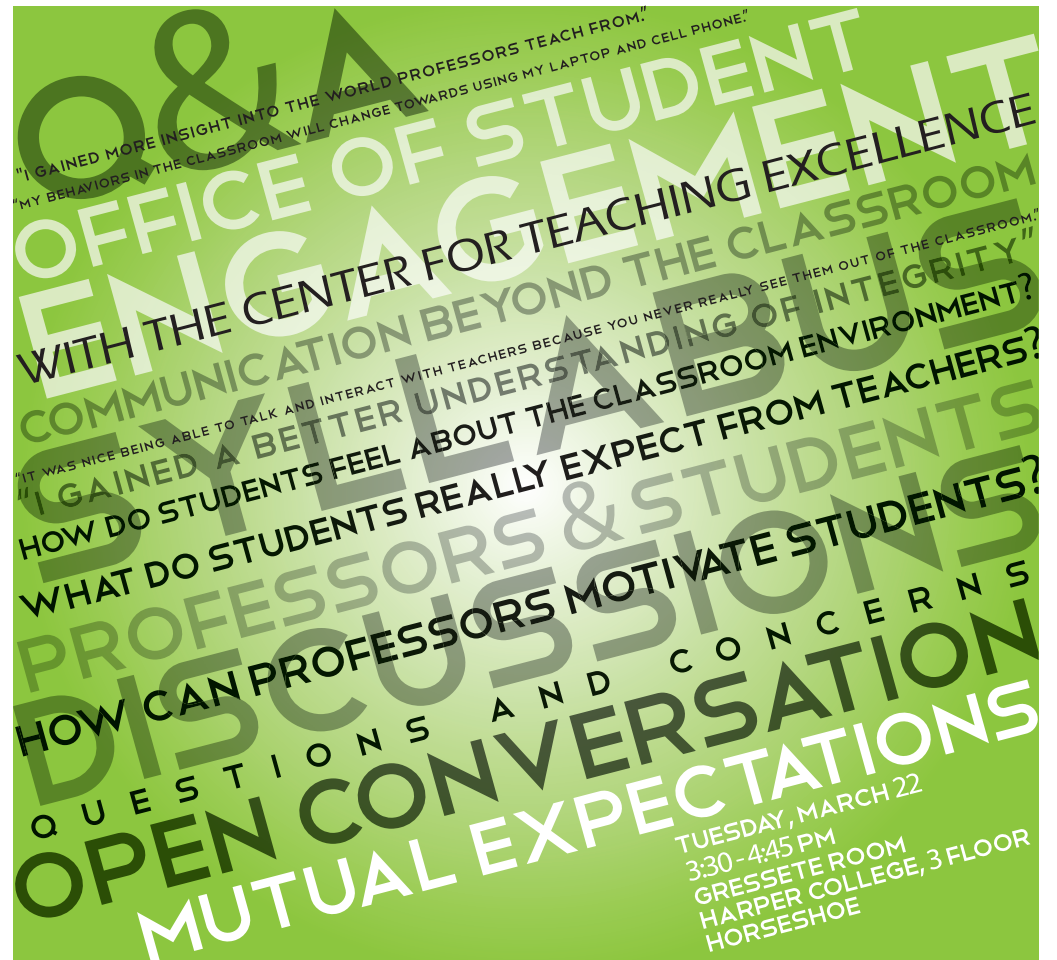
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'Birdcage' drag show tonight



David Walters / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

BGLSA and Carolina Productions will host "The Birdcage," a popular annual drag show, at 8 p.m. in the Russell House Ballroom. The event is normally sold out.





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BURIED LIFE • Continued from 1

The foursome helped a woman find the courage to visit her mother’s grave for the first time and helped a man find the son he hadn’t seen in 17 years.

The last item on “The Buried Life’s” list is going to space, a task the members said is turning out to be quite the challenge.

“We’ve had some talks with people, and the technology’s just not there yet,” Lingwood said. “We have a NASA consultant that we have working for us, so we’re trying to work something out.”

The cast encouraged students in attendance to go after their own dreams, and the presentation ended with an open floor for students to announce their lifelong dreams and wishes, which included trips to Africa and writing a book.

Bradley Wiggins, a first-year history student, confessed to the packed auditorium that she was 19 years old and had never been kissed. The members of “The Buried Life” invited her on stage to kiss Duncan Penn to the deafening cheers of the crowd. As Wiggins demonstrated and Lingwood reiterated, the hardest part of accomplishing a dream is getting started.

“Take the first step. Figure out what you want to do, if it’s small or big, and start working towards it. Just follow up and get going,” Lingwood said.

Jonnie Penn followed up with his own advice for students. “The crazier your friends think you are, the better,” Jonnie Penn said.

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Photos by Courtney Price / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

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The Daily Gamecock, University of South Carolina’s student newspaper, is looking for an Editor in Chief for Summer 2011 and Fall 2011.




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SGTV, University of South Carolina’s student television station, is looking for a Station Manager for academic year 2011-12.



Station Manager
Academic Year 2011-12

WUSC 90.5 FM, University of South Carolina’s student radio station, is looking for an academic year 2011-12 Station Manager.



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The Garnet and Black, University of South Carolina’s student magazine, is looking for an academic year 2011-12 Editor in Chief.

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Attendance needed for successful rally

We’ve ranted. We’ve complained. We’ve written nasty things both about Gov. Nikki Haley and to her. If there’s anything that has been more viral than Rebecca Black’s “Friday” video this week, it was Haley’s decision to remove Darla Moore from USC’s board of trustees.

Our disapproval has been expressed most ardently on Facebook, where numerous support groups for Moore were created, including one organizing a rally for her on Wednesday starting at noon.

You would think that with this much rage from the student population, holding a very enthusiastic rally should be no problem at all, right?

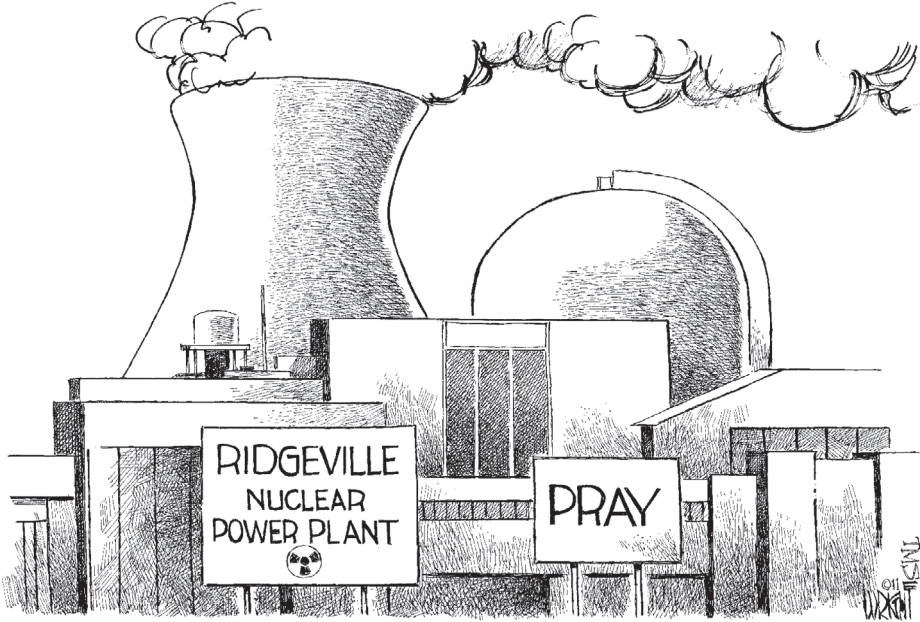
But recall the last time the USC students decided to hold a rally against reduced funding for higher education. Out of the hundreds of people who RSVPed on Facebook saying they’d attend, a grand total of 30 students did. People drove all the way from Clemson to come, but USC students couldn’t even get themselves out of bed an hour earlier to walk a block to the Statehouse. It was shameful. It was embarrassing.

USC, let’s not let this happen again. This is our chance to show our disapproval of Haley’s decision, and more importantly, this is our chance to show our respect for Darla Moore, a woman who has given us and our state so much.

If nothing else, use this as an opportunity to express your gratitude. If we want people to take our voices and opinions seriously, we’re going to need a lot more than 30 people standing on those Statehouse steps on Wednesday.

So if you have free time tomorrow, we expect to see you there.

An hour or two out of our day is the least we can give back to Darla for what she has done for us.



WANNA FANTA?

Abysmal lyrics not singer’s fault

Rebecca Black should not be criticized for attempting to achieve stardom

Unless you have been living under a rock for the past week, you have probably heard the latest YouTube sensation, Rebecca Black’s “Friday.”

And unless you have a taste for campy, Auto-Tuned, preteen music, you’ve probably taken part in some form of making fun of it and the young girl who sings it. I know I certainly did. That is, until I found out a little more about the singer. Black, a 13-year-old aspiring singer, and her mother bought a \$2,000 package from a company called Ark Music Factory, a company that specializes in teen music, so that she could get experience making a music video.

The company gave her the option of singing two songs, one about adult love and the now infamous “Friday.” Being a 13-year-old, Black chose to sing the song that fit her personality — a song about kids getting excited for the weekend, even though she now admits she knew the lyrics were awful. The video was made, placed on YouTube and the critics just poured in ... from everywhere.

Black received nasty comments about the song, the music, the video and even herself. One comment even told her she was so bad that she should go cut herself.

Yes, the song, from a purely musical standpoint, is terrible. From the Auto-

Tuning to the lyrics, it simply cannot be considered a good form of music. However, this is not Black’s fault. The blame should lie on the producers and writers of Ark Music Factory for producing and writing something so low-quality. They should also have been aware of how harsh people on the Internet can be and that subjecting a 13-year-old to such criticism could come with a huge backlash.

Maybe the writers and producers thought “Friday” was a great song and that they had just discovered the latest party anthem, but this does not mean we should be criticizing Rebecca Black at all. She had no control over the situation. While she could have chosen not to sing the song, what 13-year-old would turn down the chance to make a professional music video? What right do we have to even criticize a 13-year-old? Here is a girl who is trying to reach her dreams by stepping out of a comfort zone.

Not many of us have taken the type of risk she has made by making a video and sharing it with the world. We should not be criticizing her but instead giving her kudos for putting herself out there and actually trying to achieve her goals.

This song should never reach the Top 40, but if Rebecca Black is seeking stardom, she certainly has succeeded. Her name is on everyone’s tongue, and the song is stuck in everyone’s heads. We might be laughing at her and her “Friday” song, but as long as she surrounds herself with the right people and as long as she has some talent, she’ll soon be laughing her way to the bank.

Brain Awareness Week
Exercise enhances mental health

When I hear “aerobics,” I think Richard Simmons.

Maybe it’s because of the memories I have as a 6-year-old watching my mom’s “Sweatin’ to the Oldies” VHS tape, using Coca-Cola cans as weights. But Simmons was actually quite the colorful energy behind our culture’s fitness craze toward the end of the 1970s.

It was around this decade that intentional physical activity within the general population became heavily endorsed. The last time this was the case was when humans were required to hunt and gather for their most basic survival. But Simmons and the rest of the fitness pioneers were on to something. They recognized an element in human beings that has existed since the beginning — the need for physical exertion.

While the majority of us have been educated on the basic physical effects of exercise, such as a healthier heart, we are not as acquainted with the mental.

But when you engage your body in just 30 minutes of activity on most days of the week, there is a boost in a multitude of chemicals from which you reap positive benefits in cognition and mood. One example: It had long been taught that once a brain cell died, it was a continuing slope downward. Not only is that now disproved, but it is now demonstrated that aerobic activity increases two chemicals whose primary purposes are to create new neurons, especially in the hippocampus and prefrontal cortex. These areas are responsible for learning/memory and planning/judgment, respectively. But here is the caveat — new cells die within a few weeks unless stimulated. The quick lesson here is to hit the gym, then the library!

In other words, participating in something intellectually stimulating after an aerobic activity will keep these new cells flourishing.

— Lauren Cole, fourth-year exercise science student

Lack of self-sacrifice, patriotism inexcusable

War supporters or not, Americans must stay engaged, involved

Unlike previous American wars, notably World Wars I and II, there seems to be a general disinterest and lack of pride in the American wars in Iraq, Afghanistan and now the military involvement in Libya.

The question is why. What is so drastically different that people lack the sense of civic duty that was ever so prominent in the 1930s and ’40s?

With the modern 24-hour news cycle, YouTube and Twitter, initial thoughts are that the American public would display astronomical levels of patriotism. It can’t be that the public is uninformed; you can’t turn one way or the other without seeing pictures, videos and articles about the turmoil that America is actively engaged in. Never does a day go by that the news cycle headlines fail to feature American deaths in Iraq, an IED killing a 20-year-old in Afghanistan or the possibility of genocide in Libya.

Despite the negative media that is continually

portrayed on TV and the Internet, stories of heroism, selflessness and pride consistently penetrate the negative spin cycle we seem to get pulled into. There have been eight Medals of Honor presented to Americans for their duty and sacrifice in Iraq and Afghanistan. To say that there are no extraordinary stories that should make Americans proud is simply false.

So why is this happening? The answer is simple. Unlike any other 20th century war in America’s history, the modern 21st century war lacks the self-sacrifice that was ever so present in previous wars.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, there’s no massive shortage of supplies that’s shutting down consumer factories to retool to make military supplies. Thus there’s no shortage of consumer goods. There’s not a lack of food, oil or even people (thus no draft). I’m not for a second attempting to argue that our military isn’t strained, but it’s nowhere near a point that the

government is asking Americans to appeal to their sense of duty and alter lifestyles. Modern America has such a complex, diverse and robust infrastructure that we’re able to fight two wars while aiding in a unilateral United Nations mission without citizens at home feeling much of an ill effect whatsoever.

Yes, there are a considerable number of Americans who say we shouldn’t be involved. Depending on the poll you cite, it may even be a majority. But this isn’t an excuse for a lack of patriotism. Even during World War I and the beginning of World War II, there were Americans who decisively opposed American involvement.

It’s a sad revelation, but without the self-sacrifice that was present in previous American altercations around the world, the general American public won’t have the resounding appeal to the social responsibility that citizens should. It shouldn’t take an attack on our homeland such as 9/11 to rouse the sense of American patriotism currently absent from our generation.



Kevin Burke
Third-year finance student

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community. All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via e-mail to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length and include the author’s name,

year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position. Guest columns are limited to three per author per semester.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

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CORRECTIONS

If you find an error in today’s edition of The Daily Gamecock, let us know about it. E-mail gamecockopinions@sc.edu and we will print the correction in our next issue.

Are you Interested in working for The Daily Gamecock?
E-mail us at gamecockeditor@sc.edu

Prince electrifies Columbia

Fans pack arena to see iconic entertainer in local concert Monday night

Colin Campbell & Kristyn Winch
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

From fedoras to satin suits, from scarves to one woman's long, straight wig, the purple was never-ending at the Colonial Life Arena Monday night.

The reason?

Iconic rock legend Prince and his band, New Power Generation, made a stop on their 2011 "Welcome 2 America" tour.

The arena was packed — a statement to Prince's legendary nature, as the concert had been announced not even two weeks ahead of time. The intricate stage in the middle of the arena was shaped like the artist's iconic symbol, which he famously substituted for his name for much of the 1990s. It featured lights, disco balls and what seemed like an unceasing fog machine, giving the whole arena a spacelike, '80s feel.

And even hours before the show, a diverse mix of fans tailgated in the adjacent lots, anxiously awaiting the icon himself.

One group, whose tailgate was labeled "Purple Party People," included Debbie Yano of Lexington, who used some Prince lyrics to express her excitement for the evening: "I'm ready to party like it's 1999 in my little red Corvette."

Ed Henderson, a second-year USC law student, echoed Yano's sentiment, citing "Little Red Corvette" as his favorite song.

"We all know that girl," he said, referencing the song's subject, a quick-moving heartbreaker. The opening act, a funk band called Mint

Condition, started off well until the band's final two songs, during which the lead singer's mic went out, and the crowd quickly turned sour, booing and yelling, "We can't hear you!" and "Turn up your mic!" to the oblivious musicians.

However, as disappointingly as the show started, a crackling of thunder and a hissing of rain special effects had the crowd standing on its feet screaming in excitement for Prince to enter the stage.

As he slowly rose on a platform elevator in the middle of the stage, striking a dramatic pose, it was obvious just how legendary an entertainer he is. His presence was electric, and as he danced across the stage in sparkling silver platform shoes mixing smiles with dramatic pauses in perfect time to the music, one could see why.

"OK, we go'n get funky now," Prince yelled to the crowd, as he grabbed his Telecaster and soloed away.

During a cover of "Play That Funky Music," around 30 audience members were invited to join Prince and his band on the stage. One, a Prince impersonator dressed in a curly black wig and a purple suit, was taken aside by the singer, who had him climb on the piano and dance while the band played.

The band played hits "Let's Go Crazy," "1999," "Little Red Corvette" and "Purple Rain" all in a row, to the delight of the packed house, after which many audience members thought the show was over. But Prince continued with two encores and a costume change into an all-white ensemble with light-up shoes. The concert ended with a piano solo on "When Doves Cry," pop-and-lock dancing to "Kiss" and a crowd spelling bee with "Cool."

Near the end of the night, Prince thanked the crowd, saying, "This is the best place on Earth."

Maybe Prince always says that during concerts. Maybe he doesn't.

It didn't matter to the grooving audience. They couldn't have agreed more.

Comments on this story?
Visit dailygamecock.com/mix



Jay L. Clendenin / MCT Campus

Kevin Spacey stars in the upcoming series "House of Cards," to exclusively stream on Netflix after a \$100 million bidding war.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

Netflix outbids HBO

Jimmy Gilmore
JGILMORE@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The war for online video streaming services is on. A recent study revealed that 60 percent of the movies watched through online video-on-demand services are done through Netflix, even as others are strategizing for getting a leg up on the behemoth provider.

Netflix has emerging competition from Amazon, which has steadily been building its video-on-demand library to let customers rent single views of movies for about \$4, and Hulu Plus, which expands the free television provider with back seasons of current shows and a stable of movies for a monthly fee. Even Facebook is trying to break the video streaming window, with Warner Bros. offering to rent "The Dark Knight," among others, for single-view streams.

To try and combat the emerging competition, Netflix has gone on an aggressive spending buy, including a recent deal with CBS that will make many of its shows — including older hits like "Twin Peaks" and "Frasier" — available to stream starting in April. At the same time, some channels like HBO have refused to let their shows hit the stream; subscribers still have to get shows disc by disc in the mail.

Netflix's solution? Circumvent the competition entirely. In an unprecedented deal for a content distributor, Netflix spent \$100 million to outbid HBO for the exclusive rights to stream 26 one-hour episodes of the upcoming series "House of Cards," directed by David Fincher and starring Kevin Spacey.

In one fell swoop, the company has gone from a provider to a creator, and what better way to net viewers than to guarantee they have to subscribe to you in order to watch content? It's almost exactly the model that has worked so well for HBO: Draw people in with the movies; get them to stay with the original programming.

NETFLIX ● 7



Photos by Sydney Medlin / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Fans tailgated before Prince's "Welcome 2 America" tour stop. "The Purple Party People" (left) from Lexington donned purple for the event.

'Battle: Los Angeles' loses the fight

Dramatic sequences, war movie cliches cheapen Liebesman's action film

Tyler Simpson
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

"Battle: Los Angeles"
NOW IN THEATERS



Director: Jonathan Liebesman
Starring: Aaron Eckhart, Michelle Rodriguez, Bridget Moynahan
Rating: PG-13 for war violence and destruction, language

"Battle: Los Angeles" tries its best to come off as "Independence Day" (1996) meets "Black Hawk Down" (2001), but instead it feels more like "Skyline" (2010), only a tad better. The movie introduces itself as a two-hour-long Marine recruiting attempt packed with war movie clichés and unnecessary dramatic sequences. The use of trembling images ruins the action scenes and acts as a distraction from the thrills the movie supposedly presents.

The film opens with Los Angeles in flames and under alien attack. It then goes into flashback mode and introduces its main characters, who possess less depth than Aaron Eckhart's dimpled chin. The first is Staff Sgt. Michael Nantz (Eckhart), who turns in his retirement papers and remains tormented by the memories of the men he

lost in Iraq. His alien-fighting unit is led by an inexperienced lieutenant (Ramon Rodriguez), who has a pregnant wife. Other squad members include a feisty leatherneck Air Force sergeant (Michelle Rodriguez) and Ne-Yo (yeah, I know, right?).

After the introductions, meteors crash down to Earth, and aliens attack the obligatory cities like Paris, Hong Kong and Los Angeles. The aliens arrive to colonize the humans and harvest all of the water, which they need in order to survive. The audience never gets a clear physical description as to what the aliens look like, except that their weapons are attached to their forearms.

The story to "Battle: Los Angeles" contains some dramatic nuances and unnecessary plot points. For instance, the movie establishes the point that the aliens can only be killed by shooting them in the heart but does absolutely nothing with it. Also, a boy's father dies after helping the Marines, and Nantz promises to look after his son, which he can't do because he has to go shoot more aliens. All of the dramatic scenes only prolong the film and fill in between the repetitive scenes of endless, hazardous gunfire. This is the general outline of the film.

Casting clearing was not the biggest concern in the making of this film, including such inexperienced actors like R&B singer Ne-Yo. Out of the cast, Eckhart delivered the most disappointing performance. The thought of Eckhart wasting his God-given acting talent on a raucous excuse for a science-fiction film is utterly depressing. His character even manages to throw in an overly scripted encouraging speech about



Richard Cartwright / The Associated Press

Aaron Eckhart plays Staff Sgt. Michael Nantz in new war drama "Battle: Los Angeles."

how Marines never quit.

One of the biggest letdowns of "Battle: Los Angeles" is the biggest nightmare for any action film: the overuse of the shaky camera. Understandably, director Jonathan Liebesman might have tried to give audiences that "part of the action" experience that 3-D so tiresomely offers. However, having a high conception and a rickety camera doesn't mean you can duplicate the exhilaration of guerrilla warfare. The camera only serves as an annoyance, refusing to give the audience a simple picture of what is happening in some scenes.

Not only does the film lack characterization and drag on, but "Battle: Los Angeles" also feels too borrowed and unoriginal as it contains clichés from both

war and science-fiction films. Similar to "Independence Day" (1996), the aliens possess a command center that controls the sky-patrolling machines and needs to be destroyed if the humans can win. This command center, along with the aircraft drones, looks poorly designed, ironically appearing as pieces of junkyard scrap from a high-tech alien race.

"Battle: Los Angeles" is hardly enough to satisfy as a weekend escape; it's all bang but barely worth the buck. Hardcore action junkies probably won't feel deprived, but with all the mindless explosions and barrage of bullets, it would have better served as a first-person shooter video game.

Comments on this story?
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NETFLIX • Continued from 6

And with Netflix making a concerted effort to rapidly expand its library of features and shows available to “watch instantly,” it can reduce the cost of shipping and manufacturing those trademarked red envelopes, shifting its expenses more to securing and renewing licenses and contracts with other studios while funneling other money toward new shows.

On one hand, it’s a genius move and one that asserts Netflix as thinking well above the competition. On the other, it’s now become a wholly different monster and could alienate some studios.

With Netflix’s ability to stream movies and shows based on contracts that must be renewed at fixed intervals, it’s unclear whether the deals that provide users with “Arrested Development,” “The Office” and “That ’70s Show” will be allowed to expire if the respective studios view Netflix as a competitor instead of a distributor.

In that doomsday scenario, the website’s move to make its bin of streaming shows and movies the crown jewel of video-on-demand services would collapse entirely, and Netflix would be stuck with a \$100 million bill for “House of Cards.”

With Fincher and Spacey attached, the miniseries will undoubtedly draw hesitant subscribers to the service, but that shouldn’t be Netflix’s concern; the concern is whether or not this move will keep them ahead of Amazon and Hulu.

Regardless, this move demonstrates that video-on-demand services have taken the next step. They’re not just for feeding subscribers what they already love; they’re for creating and providing new, original programming, and that may be the only way to stay ahead.

That’s Entertainment.

Comments on this story?
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Hughes’ Muses

Superhero films fall from Superman, Batman standards

Neal Hughes
NHUGHES@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

There is nothing better than a well-made, entertaining superhero flick.

In fact, if the film is about an interesting superhero, I will see the movie at the midnight release. I will have done my research to measure the authenticity of the film (I do not go as far as to dress up because people would not go with me), and all that being said, could probably count on one hand the amount of popular superhero movies I have not seen. It is safe to say that I might have a mild obsession with superheroes, and it also safe to say that I will probably go to bed by myself for the rest of my life.

However, even for someone manically obsessed with caped crusaders who parade around in costumes that make Tim Gunn seem straight, I can’t help but be skeptical of the number of superhero films on the horizon.

Every time I go online, yet another superhero project has been announced (I can name eight without pausing to think). And, while this was at first the most awesome

trend since utility belts (the one I wear looks suspiciously like a fanny pack), I can’t help but wonder: Have we had too much of a good thing?

Before the turn of the century, superhero films were few and far between with Tim Burton’s “Batman” (1989) and the early “Superman” the pinnacles of the genre. With the release of “X-Men” in 2000, the films achieved some notoriety, and the genre’s interest piqued. Fast-forward two years, “Spiderman” is released and has to this date grossed over \$800 million.

With such a large box office draw, “Spiderman” can be credited as the film that opened the door to the genre. But if “Spiderman” opened a door, “The Dark Knight” kicked down the whole front of the house by letting people know that the superhero films can be dark, complex and respectable. After Christopher Nolan’s magnum opus, an onslaught of films were released, trying to ride on “Dark Knight’s” success.

“The Dark Knight” was incredible, and there hasn’t been a film that has rivaled it in quality or scope (obviously). There honestly hasn’t been a decent superhero film, save “Kick-Ass” (2010) (yes, I am including it in this genre, spare me your semantics,

nerds).

While quality has gone down in recent films, quantity has skyrocketed, completely ignoring the standard set by “Spiderman” and “Batman.” Superhero films are now a veritable cash cow, and people are flocking to them (myself included) with a certain reckless abandonment. This results in studios making them at a pace that rivals Apple products.

Marvel (owned by Disney) is the worst culprit of them all, deciding to make “The Avengers,” due out in 2012, but first setting up the film with a drawn-out back story, resulting in an inundation of superhero films, all so Marvel can create one huge cluster-copulation of a movie.

As long as people keep spending money to see these films, they will just keep decreasing in quality and exponentially increasing in number like jackrabbits. Luckily, Nolan has opted out of an “as long as it makes money” mindset and has announced “The Dark Knight Rises” as his last Batman. Unluckily, Nolan is the only exception and should make as many of the “Batman” films as his lifetime allows.

Comments on this story?
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‘Dragon Age’ saga disappoints with second game

BioWare fails to meet writing, storytelling expectations

Aaron Jenkins
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

“Dragon Age II”

C+

Developer: BioWare

Platforms: Microsoft Windows, Playstation 3, Xbox 360, Mac OS X

Rating: Mature for blood, gore, language, sexual content, violence

BioWare is one of the few video game companies that can legitimately be praised for its writing and storytelling craft. With 2009’s “Dragon Age: Origins,” its developers took such care in fleshing out its fictional universe that it became one of the most deep and emotionally engaging video game stories ever told.

Unfortunately, follow-up “Dragon Age II” is perhaps BioWare’s sloppiest storytelling. The game begins as a frame story, with one of the characters detailing the story of the human noble (and protagonist) Hawke and his/her (gender is up to the player) rise to becoming the champion of the city of Kirkwall.

Unlike the first game, “Dragon Age II” has no ultimate evil to speak of and

is much more focused on the personal story of Hawke and the political conflicts of Kirkwall. Unfortunately, despite the game’s best efforts to do something narratively unique in a fantasy setting, everything just feels aimless. Pieces of the plot are disjointed and the overarching narrative wanders for a long time before finding any sort of purpose. Even then, the narrative primarily serves as setup for the inevitable “Dragon Age III.”

Part of the thrill of fantasy games is exploring a massive fictional world. In this regard, the most unforgivable issue with “Dragon Age II” is that nearly the entirety of the game takes place within the city of Kirkwall, with the occasional excursion to a nearby beach or mountaintop. Since the game is roughly 40 hours in length, players should expect to revisit the same locales literally dozens of times. These excessively repetitive environments threaten to ruin the entire experience; no matter how witty the writing or how satisfying the combat, everything eventually becomes plagued by monotony.

Thankfully, despite the awkward narrative and confined world, the game manages to deliver a wide cast of deep, intelligently written characters. Although none quite live up to the former game’s Morrigan in terms of complexity, there’s still plenty to appreciate in the brooding ex-slave Fenris or the sly and witty dwarf Varric. Their humorous banter and dark back stories prove continually interesting and, in a strange way, reliable.

Also, on a purely mechanical level,

“Dragon Age II” is, in large part, an improvement over the original. Combat now has much more emphasis on action, and while it may have lost some of the depth of the original in translation, it is now much more visually satisfying and fast-paced.

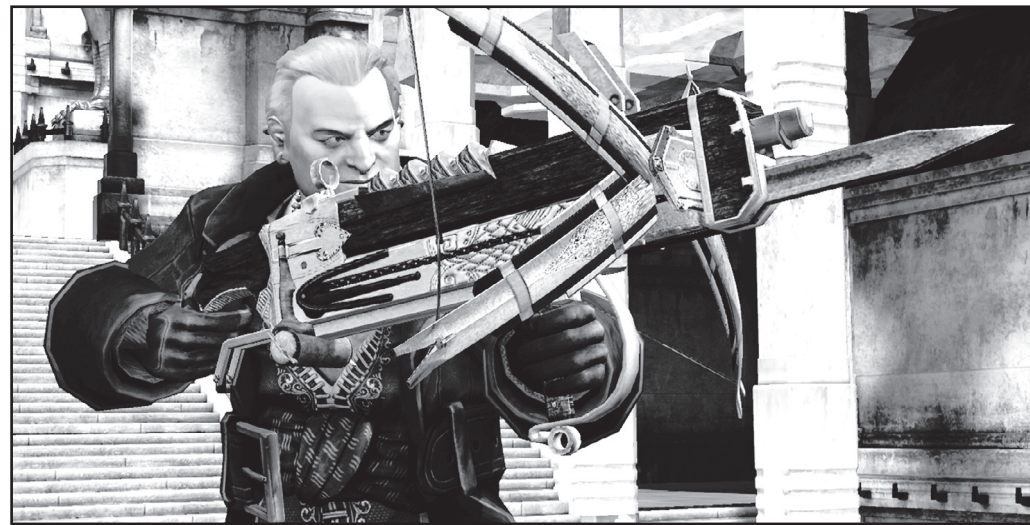
The inventory has been streamlined as well, and now requires much less micromanagement from the player. However, the inability to change party members’ armor or clothing feels oversimplified and makes any item not suited for Hawke’s chosen class absolutely useless.

Dealing with other characters has been made smoother as well. The game’s dialogue system has now adopted a “Mass Effect”-style conversation wheel, which does an effective job of specifying whether certain comments will be humorous, considerate, flirtatious or just plain cruel.

The decisions the game forces the player to make are still as morally ambiguous and complex as in “Origins.” However, they are fewer and farther between this time around, and sadly their consequences are much less substantial.

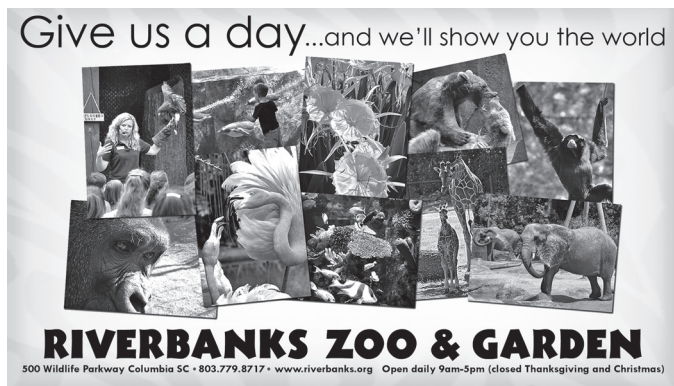
BioWare’s narrative experimentation with “Dragon Age II” is commendable, but the game unfortunately doesn’t come together as a cohesive whole. Much of it feels rushed and cobbled together. In the shadow of its predecessor, it is difficult to call “Dragon Age II” anything other than a disappointment. For all the refinement of mechanics and gameplay, the game’s narrow scope, inconsequential narrative and recycled environments make it a journey to finish, and not in a good way.

Comments on this story?
Visit dailygamecock.com/mix



Courtesy of dragonage.bioware.com

BioWare’s new video game “Dragon Age II” doesn’t live up to the original “Dragon Age: Origins,” with less detailed characters and narrative and repetitive fantasy settings.



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Spurned • By Jarad Greene



HOROSCOPES



ARIES You're inspired, and business flows well today. Take one step at a time, as the next few days could bring challenges. You'll want to be well-rested.

TAURUS You have a gift for words today, and your distant friends want to hear from you. There's some change going on, and your shrewd deductions support the new direction.

GEMINI Use your astute business ability to manage career and work changes, which seem abundant. Navigate strong emotion to discover hidden opportunity.

CANCER Social changes around you provide obstacles to skip around. Use your abilities to navigate any tricky terrain, and let any emotions out for freedom.

LEO Something is revealed that has you question long-assumed truths. While this may shock or surprise you, you have the business acumen to take advantage of the new opportunity.

VIRGO Change is afoot, regarding siblings, travel or communication. Regardless of any emotional reaction to this transition, you have the savvy to navigate it.

LIBRA Shifting finances up the ante of the game. Weigh the risks and benefits of each decision, and choose after careful consideration. Go with your heart.

SCORPIO You're discovering something new about yourself. While you may have strong opinions, judgments or emotions about that, this self-knowledge increases your business ability.

SAGITTARIUS Something hidden becomes revealed. This may provoke surprise or strong emotion. Long repressed, it's smaller and easier to deal with in the light of day.

CAPRICORN An old dream may get new life today. Work with your team for best results. Explore uncharted territory to discover treasure hidden in plain sight.

AQUARIUS Your business sense is on fire. Just be careful not to burn any bridges on the way to the tallest tower. You never know when you need an escape route.

PISCES Don't overthink it. You'll drive yourself crazy if you keep going down the same tunnel. There's no cheese there. Look down some other path, and just explore.

The Scene @USC

TODAY

"THE BIRDCAGE"
8 p.m., free
Russell House Ballroom



TRAYE HORNE BAND
10 p.m., free
Tin Roof, 1022 Senate St.

NEW MUSIC NIGHT W/ ALBATROSS, BLACK/WHITE, OH THE CALAMITY
6 p.m., \$5 over 21 / \$8 under 21
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

TOMORROW

OPEN MIC W/ GREG RUE & NIKKI LEE
8 p.m., free
The White Mule, 1530 Main St.

THE FUNERAL PYRE, THE SECRET, YOUNG AND IN THE WAY
6:30 p.m., \$8
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

CALENDAR

WHAT: Healthy Carolina Farmers Market
WHEN: 10 a.m.
WHERE: Greene Street

WHAT: College of Journalism and Mass Communications Camp Kemo Challenge
WHEN: 10 a.m.
WHERE: Russell House Patio

WHAT: Multicultural Student Affairs Diversity & Creed Week
WHEN: 11 a.m.
WHERE: Davis Field

WHAT: Sodexo Group Lunch
WHEN: 11:30 a.m.
WHERE: RH Dining Room

WHAT: Fraternity and Sorority Advisors Meeting
WHEN: 5:30 p.m.
WHERE: RH room 301

WHAT: Alpha Kappa Alpha "A Klass in Etiquette"
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: RH Dining Room

WHAT: International Students Association Dance
WHEN: 7 p.m.
WHERE: South Quad Lounge

WHAT: ONE Carolina Chapter Meeting
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: RH 303

WHAT: "The Birdcage"
WHEN: 8 p.m.
WHERE: RH Ballroom

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Courtesy Price / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The USC Outdoor Recreation department set up a table on Greene Street Monday to sign students up for the 2011 Banff Mountain Film Festival in Wyoming. The festival is an annual competition of short films and documentaries about outdoor sports and culture.

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

03/22/11

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Coffee House
Tuesday 8PM
Shandon House
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SHANDON
SHANDON COLLEGE MINISTRY

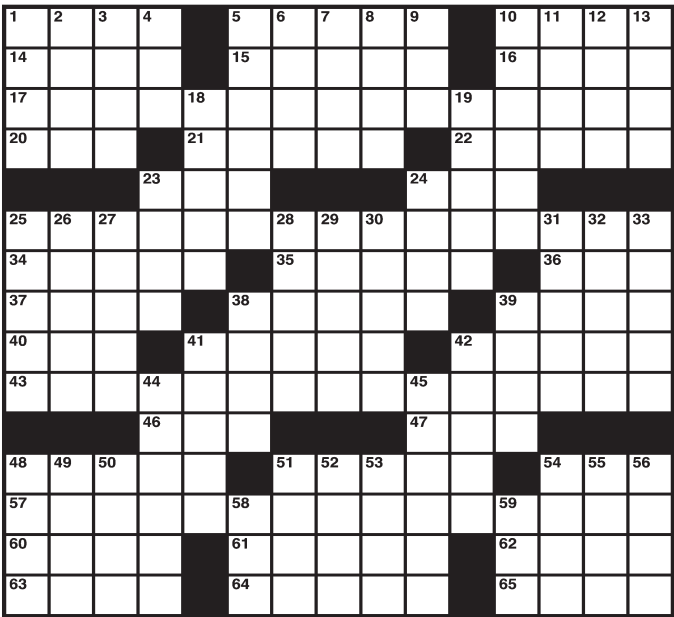
Bible Study
Sunday 10AM
Shandon Baptist
5250 Forest Dr.

ACROSS

- 1 Steve of Apple
- 5 Snug, as jeans
- 10 Agile
- 14 Old-fashioned exclamation
- 15 One-way street sign symbol
- 16 Draft classification
- 17 New perspective
- 20 Turkish topper
- 21 U.S., French and Australian tournaments
- 22 Hurdles for future attys.
- 23 Emissions watchdog org.
- 24 "Dites-__": "South Pacific" song
- 25 "Doesn't bother me a bit"
- 34 Deathly white
- 35 Did electrical work
- 36 Roman peace
- 37 Inst. of learning
- 38 "__ the loneliest number": '60s song lyric
- 39 First name in jeans
- 40 Word after box or cable
- 41 Burst of growth
- 42 '90s candidate Ross
- 43 Listen very carefully
- 46 Section of L.A.?
- 47 Commercial suffix with Water
- 48 __ Dei: lamb of God
- 51 Prophets
- 54 Barfly
- 57 How the poor live
- 60 Rivers, to Rosita
- 61 __ cum laude
- 62 Hummus holder
- 63 Grand Ole __
- 64 Thrown weapon
- 65 Put in the overhead bin

- 9 Seesaw complement
- 10 Knocks off
- 11 "Only Time" New Age singer
- 12 Pedal pushers
- 13 Soviet news source
- 18 "Come on, let's go for a ride!"
- 19 Bank robber
- "Pretty Boy"
- 23 Barely made, with "out"
- 24 Lyon ladies: Abbr.
- 25 Civil rights org.
- 26 Acting award
- 27 Lamb Chop creator
- Lewis
- 28 Admit it
- 29 Flaming
- 30 Corn chip
- 31 Verdi work
- 32 Really enjoy, as food
- 33 Some turnpike ramps
- 38 Magnum __: great work
- 39 Onion relative
- 41 Smidgen

- 42 Bender of rays
- 44 Humbling
- 45 Hubbub
- 48 Jackson 5 hairdo
- 49 Golf club part
- 50 American-born Jordanian queen
- 51 Piece of cake
- 52 Outskirts
- 53 Sicilian smoker
- 54 One of a deck's foursome
- 55 Maestro Klemperer
- 56 Melting period
- 58 Early hrs.
- 59 Covert __: spy missions



Solution 03/21/11



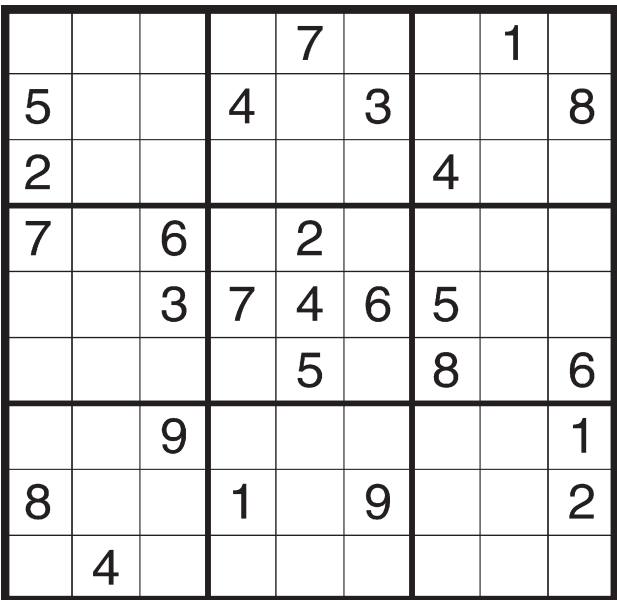
Sudoku

By The Mephram Group

03/22/11

Hey Students!

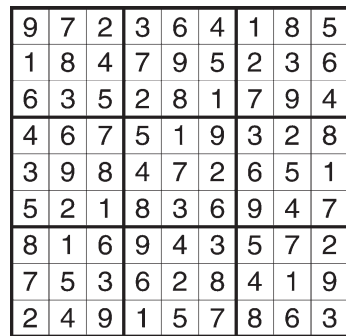
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Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution from 03/21/11





File Photo
Eric Baker, seen here against Florida Atlantic in 2009, has battled back to action from a hernia and torn ACL.

Kratch: Baker bounces back

Running back returns after two injuries

Usually, rust is considered a corrosive force of nature, eating away at what once was. In the case of Eric Baker, it is a figurative reminder of what the redshirt junior has endured, and a quickly disappearing one at that. “I’m just trying to shake off the rust,” said Baker after rushing for 34 yards on seven carries in South Carolina’s first spring scrimmage on Saturday. “I’m taking it one day at a time.”

The day was a long time coming for Baker, who hadn’t played in some 15 months. After a solid freshman season, the Jacksonville, Fla., native was in line to start at tailback in 2009. But, after suffering a hernia and undergoing a subsequent surgery, those plans changed as Kenny Miles, Jarvis Giles and Brian Maddox pushed past him. Baker appeared in only eight games that year, mostly on special teams. He had only two rush attempts, both of which came against Florida Atlantic in the third game of the season. A lost season got worse when Baker tore his ACL during practice prior to the Papajohns.com Bowl. Midway through February of 2010, days after star Byrnes High running back Marcus Lattimore signed with USC, Baker underwent another surgery, this time on his injured left knee. The ACL tear cost Baker the 2010 season, leaving him out of action as Lattimore and the Gamecocks ran all the way to Atlanta and

the school’s first SEC Eastern Division championship. Now, Baker is finally healthy and working to regain his form of two summers ago. “I think I’m doing OK in all aspects,” Baker said. “But there’s always room for improvement and trying to get better every day.” Running backs coach Jay Graham said he was pleased with Baker’s outing in the scrimmage. Graham too even used that symbolic word in saying so. “I just wanted him to get some of that rust off,” he said. “He looked pretty good. He ran hard; he had good vision. I’m looking forward to this spring with him.” Through the entire rehabilitation process with both injuries, Baker kept perspective. When asked if he ever thought the “football gods” were conspiring against him, he quickly dismissed such thoughts. “It’s football; stuff happens,” Baker said. “Everything happens for a reason. I just had to get my knee back together.” It’s back together now, and Baker may be on to something about a possible reason. In 2009, when both injuries occurred, Carolina’s rushing attack was anemic, scraping the bottom of the Southeastern Conference’s statistical standings. Today, the Gamecocks pride themselves on their zone read attack, led by Lattimore. The All-American and Heisman



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candidate will not participate in many contact drills this spring in order to preserve his health. In the same vein, it would be ideal for the Carolina coaching staff to be able to spell Lattimore at times during the season and not have to rely on the sophomore for 40 carries a game. With Maddox graduating and Giles having transferred, Miles and Baker now have to prove themselves worthy of gaining such carries and further strengthening the ground attack. The running game isn’t the only area where Baker could find a role. USC is without an established passing threat out of the backfield due to the departure of fullback Patrick DiMarco, and Baker has also looked good in the passing game, snagging four balls for 17 yards in the scrimmage. “He has good hands, strong hands, and he’ll snatch the ball,” Graham said. “We’re just getting better with his route running. He’s just getting used to seeing everything as he’s running his routes.” Baker isn’t all the way back to full go yet. He’ll readily admit that, but he is getting there. The injuries are behind him. He now can focus on getting back to where he was before the hernia and knee injury. “[The game] is moving so fast, and having not been in scrimmages or in game situations last year, it’ll affect you a little bit,” Graham said. “But he came out, and he’s picking it up really fast.” Just as swiftly, the metaphoric rust is falling off as well; however, it isn’t revealing corrosion as it goes but rather potential after a long journey.

Gamecocks aim to stay hot at home against Charleston

USC hosts Cougars in mid-week matchup

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Entering the weekend having lost two of its prior three games, many thought No. 4 South Carolina would be hard-pressed to beat Georgia in its first conference series of the season. That proved to be true on Friday, but with bounce-back performances on Saturday and Sunday, the Gamecocks managed to get back on track and return to the winning side. Two days after their series win, they’ll look to keep it going in a home matchup against College of Charleston.

“As far as the first-game conference jitters, it’s expected,” first baseman Christian Walker said. “SEC play is always going to be tough, no matter who you’re playing. Thankfully our pitching staff held it together and didn’t give up many runs there at all, so that kept us in the game.” Carolina’s hitting woes that contributed to last week’s losses began to lift in the wins against Georgia but have continued to linger for preseason All-American Jackie Bradley Jr. Over the course of the three-game series, the junior outfielder went 0-11 at the plate with two strikeouts. In spite of the slump, however, coach Ray Tanner believes it’s only a matter of time before Bradley snaps out of it.

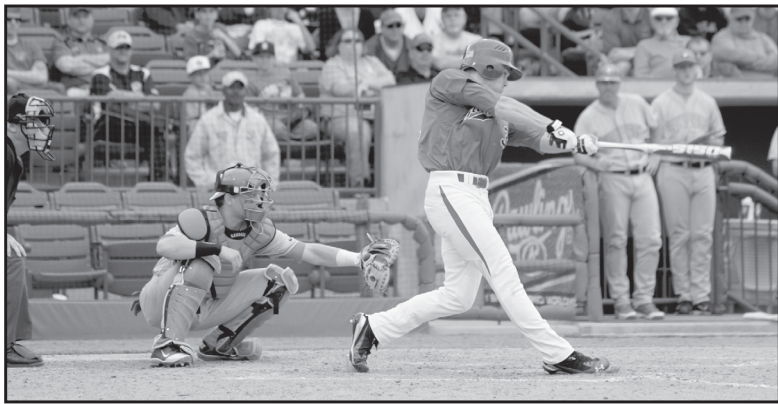
“A lot of times, when your guys aren’t getting hits or your guys aren’t making pitches, you don’t win, and we were able to win,” Tanner said. “Jackie’s going to be fine. There are a lot of outstanding players that go through some slumps. He’s having a tough time right now, but he’ll fight his way out of it.” On the brighter side, Sunday’s 8-3 victory saw several players break out of their cold streaks, including shortstop Peter Mooney and outfielder Evan Marzilli. After going a combined 1-8 in the first two games, Mooney reached base twice in game three and finished the day with a hit and a run. Marzilli didn’t enter the game until the eighth inning, but

in his only at-bat, he slapped a double into left-center field that drove in two runs. “Nobody outworks [Marzilli], and nobody’s more dedicated than he is,” Tanner said. “He’s scuffling, and that’s hard. He’s been missing those pitches that he got a hit on [Sunday]. When you get a pitch to hit, you’ve got to hit it because you don’t always get the pitch you want. He stepped up and got a big hit, and I think that’s huge. Just one swing of the bat can change things for a player.”

Taking the mound for Carolina tonight will be right-hander Colby Holmes, who allowed one hit in 5.1 innings Wednesday against Wofford en route to earning his first win of the season. The sophomore started six games in 2010, one of which came in a 6-3 victory over the Cougars.

“I thought Colby did a super job for us early in the year as a true freshman pitching in the midweek,” Tanner said. “He was making a statement about maybe getting into the weekend at some point, and then he kind of went backwards toward the second half, but he’s more poised now. He pitched well enough [against Wofford] to get a chance to start.” College of Charleston just missed Baseball America’s Top-25 poll after sitting at No. 20 last week but comes into Columbia more than capable of stealing a win. Although a weekend series with No. 1 Florida awaits in the near future, Tanner isn’t concerned about the Gamecocks losing their focus. “[College of Charleston] is tremendously talented,” Tanner said. “They’re more than likely going to be a postseason team. We’re not going to focus on the weekend. We’ve got to try to get through the middle of the week here and play some good baseball. We’ll deal with the weekend on Thursday.”

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Chelsea Director / THE DAILY GAMECOCK
Sophomore outfielder Evan Marzilli was one of several Gamecocks who found success at the plate in Sunday’s win over Georgia.

Softball looks to break losing streak against Coastal Carolina



Chris Keohane / THE DAILY GAMECOCK
Freshman pitcher Julie Sarratt threw a no-hitter earlier this season against Coastal Carolina at Beckham Field.

Gamecocks eager to win again after five straight losses

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After losing four straight games, South Carolina was so close to getting its first win of the week. It forced its third game with Auburn into extra innings after dropping the first two in the series, but the Gamecocks watched AU third baseman Kyndall White hit the first pitch she saw from pitcher Julie Sarratt over the left field wall for a walk-off home run, giving the Tigers a 3-2 win and a series sweep. Such has been the story for USC of late: keeping the game within reach before watching it slip away at the end. “On Sunday, we fought really hard to tie the game,” coach Beverly Smith said. “We were actually getting one-hit going into the sixth inning, and the girls came back and scored two to tie, and then we took it into extra innings. We were there,

giving ourselves an opportunity to win, but we just didn’t get that clutch hit.” USC (16-12) looks to snap its five-game losing straight as it travels to Coastal Carolina (14-12) tonight. The Chanticleers are nursing their own six-game losing skid, as they went 0-6 in the Chanticleer Challenge over the weekend. Furthermore, the Gamecocks have already faced Coastal this season, where Sarratt made her college debut — a no-hitter as Carolina cruised to a 5-0 win. “We certainly won’t be taking Coastal Carolina lightly,” Smith said. “We’ll definitely be heading in there very well-aware of the hitters that they’ve got. They’ve been playing tough opponents here lately, and I’m sure they’ll be well-prepared for us.” The leading hitter for Coastal is Brooke Donovan, who is hitting .295 with eight RBI and a home run. The Chants also have four players who have each homered three times this season. And despite the last outing against Coastal, USC is not getting ahead of

itself; the stellar pitching in that game cannot be overlooked. “No question, we had a lot of success against them, simply because our pitcher had a great game and we played great defense against them,” Smith said. “I think we’re building confidence with every game we’re playing, and we try to do the same things. We want to swing at good pitches and take care of the ball.” As far as the bats for the Gamecocks, Lauren Lackey leads the team with a .385 average, seven RBI and one home run. No player has more than two home runs, but seven players have hit one out this season. Dana Hathorn leads the team in runs batted in with 20. “Any win is going to be important for us,” Smith said. “It doesn’t matter who our opponent is, we’re out there trying to win every game, so certainly, we’re going to head into Myrtle Beach tomorrow for the win.”

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